

Schaumburg, IL – Congresswoman Melissa Bean (IL-8) presented medals to three different veterans on Friday, November 11th – Veterans Day. Each medal recipient contacted Bean's office to request replacement medals and any other decorations that they were owed for service in the United States military. Mr. Medin and Mr. Newton received their awards at the Palatine Veterans Day event at Community Park at 10:45am. Then the Congresswoman presented Mr. Richard Koepke with his medals at the Schaumburg Veterans Day event at the Veterans Gateway Park at 11:30am.

1. **Mr. Lowell Medin** was born in Center City, Minnesota and served in the military from February 1953 to February 1955. His basic training was at Company C, Fort Medium Tank Battalion. After Basic he was assigned to headquarter company as a personal clerk. In November 1953 he received orders to be assigned to the 77th Ordinance depot company in Germany where he served from February 1954 through January 1955, and was discharged February 11, 1955 at Fort Sheridan. At 65 years of age Mr. Medin organized the first of several reunions of the 77th Ordinance. **He has received and was presented with (3) three medals for his service: Good Conduct Medal, Army of Occupation with Germany Clasp and National Defense Service Medal.**

2. **Mr. William Newton** grew up in Chicago and enlisted in the Army Aviation program in 1963 after receiving draft notice. He was assigned to UTT Helicopter Company as a crew chief in Vietnam from October 1963 to November 1964. He flew over 500 combat missions as a crew member of an armed helicopter and was wounded during aerial combat. Upon his return he married his wife Sherry, who he has now been with for 37 years. They have four sons and four grandchildren. He is the owner for First Choice Contracting and Inspections. **He has received and was presented with (8) eight medals for his service in Vietnam: Good Conduct Medal, Air Medal (50OLC), Purple Heart, Marksman Badge, Army Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Exp Medal, AVN Mech Qual Badge, and Sharpshooter (M-1).**

3. **Mr. Richard Koepke** grew up in Oak Park, Illinois, joined the National Guard in 1940, and was inducted into federal service in March 1941. In 1943, he was transferred to Officer Training School and became a 2nd Lieutenant. He then became a member of the 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division and in 1944 was transferred to Italy. His division entered Dachau, the earliest and longest-functioning SS-controlled concentration camp in Nazi Germany, in April of 1945 and assisted in its liberation. In 1945 he returned to the States, in 1947 joined the National Guard as a trainer and was back in the reserves in 1953. Mr. Koepke retired in 1960 as a Major. He has been married to his wife, Annette, for 57 years. They live in Schaumburg,

and have two sons and four grandchildren.

He has received and was presented with (8) eight medals for his service in WWII: Bronze Star, Presidential Unit Citation, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European, African, Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 4 bronze service stars with arrowhead, WWII Victory Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge 1st Award, and Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII.

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